

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Information on 31st Infantry
Regiment/Other Units

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13. Recruiting Board

13. [redacted] the President of the Rural Council [redacted] Zhelyazko Ivanov Gospodinov.

14. [redacted] the 31st Infantry Regiment [redacted] in Silistra, 50X1-HUM
[redacted] The regiment
was stationed in the barracks on the south side of the city, near the vineyard 50X1-HUM

15. [redacted] officers [redacted] 50X1-HUM
[redacted] Commander of the 31st Infantry Regiment, Capt Asenov.

[redacted]
It Col Stovchev became Regimental Commander in 1950.

[redacted]
Regimental Chief-of-Staff, Capt Atsev. [redacted]
[redacted]

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Deputy Regimental Commander Darakchiev, now in Stalin. He was a captain in 1949, and is now a major.

Battalion Commander of the First Battalion, Capt Minev

Deputy Commander of the First Battalion, Lt Simeonov, from Turnovo.

Company Commander of the First Company, 2nd Lt Murov

Company Commander of the Second Company, 2nd Lt Kiryakov, a partisan. He went to Sh Z O as a non-com candidate and they made him a 2nd Lt after three days.

Sgt Major of the First Company, Sokolinski.

Sgt Major of the Second Company, Ivan Nedelchev.

Sgt Major of the First Machine Gun Company, Nikola Kalchev.

Battalion Commander of the Second Battalion, Lt Atanasov

Company Commander of the Fourth Company, 2nd Lt Peshev

Company Commander of the Fifth Company, 2nd Lt Arkhangelov.

Company Commander of the Second Machine Gun Company, 2nd Lt Khristozov

Sgt Major of the Fifth Company, Altukov

Sgt Major of the Second Machine Gun Company, Petur Stoyanov

Division Commander, Capt Marinov

Mortar Battery Commander, 2nd Lt Tsvetkov.

Second Lt Dimov, assigned to the artillery battery

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Regimental paymaster, Aleksandrov [redacted]

16. [redacted] following from the 17th Motorized Regiment in Knyazhevo, Sofia Okoliya:

Regimental Commander, Lt Col Dafin Kichev [redacted]

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Chief-of-Staff (Adjutant), Capt Karanetkov [redacted]

Regimental Political Commander, Major Buchvarov [redacted]

Secretary of the People's Youth Federation in the barracks, 2nd Lt Stefanov [redacted]

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Battalion Commander of the First Battalion, Capt Takov [redacted]

Company Commander of the First Company, 2nd Lt Bartolomeev. [redacted]

Battalion Commander of the Third Battalion, Lt Emilov. [redacted]

17. Regimental Complement:

On the regimental staff: Regimental Commander; Deputy Commander; Chief-of-Staff; Chief of the Tactical Section, 2nd Lt Iordanov; Deputy Chief of the Tactical Section, usually a non-com; Secret Section, 2nd Lt Sarafov (two civilian are attached to the Secret Section); Chief of the Special Section, 2nd Lt Subev; Regimental Supply Officer; Mess Procurement Officer; Oluzheynik [?]; Chief of Chemical Supplies, an ex-Partisan, Nedelcho Pavlov; two political officers, Capt Mitev, a Partisan, and 2nd Lt Georgiev, also a Partisan, who agitates among the soldiers; Regimental Party Secretary, 2nd Lt Georgi Vasilev, and ex-Partisan.

18. Attached to the regiment:

Special Battalion: Consists of four platoons; reconnaissance, engineers, telephone, and radio. Has a Battalion Commander and a Deputy.

First Infantry Battalion: Complement: Battalion Commander, Deputy, Chief-of-Staff. The Battalion consists of three companies:

First Infantry Company, consisting of three infantry platoons, each with three infantry rifle squads.

Second Infantry Company - same complement.

First Heavy Machine Gun Company, consists of three platoons: heavy machine gun, mortar, and anti-tank. Each platoon has three specialized squads.

Second Infantry Rifle Battalion: Has the same T/O and complement.

Artillery Battalion: Has the following complement:

One Mortar Battery, consisting of three mortar platoons with two mortars each.
One Infantry Gun Battery, consisting of three gun platoons each with two 6.72 mm ZIS guns of Soviet manufacture. One anti-tank battery, consisting of three anti-tank platoons, each with two anti-tank guns (this has not yet been formed in the 31st Infantry Regiment).

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Service Company: The Company Commander was a Sgt Major. Half the men took care of the horses and the other half performed other fatigue duties in the regiment.

Music Platoon: about 24 men.

19. Military Training:

Individual Instruction - three months
 Squad Training - about two months
 Platoon Training - about two months
 Company Training - about one month
 Battalion Training - consisted of three courses of four to five days each, covering attack, defense, advance and retreat, occupying a position, etc.
 Regimental Training - consisted of two courses of six to seven days each on the same maneuvers.

20. Barracks Program:

Reveille at sunrise (5 and 6 AM, winter and summer time)
 6:00 - 6:30 - calisthenics
 6:30 - 6:45 - wash
 6:45 - 7:00 - inspection
 7:00 - 7:30 - breakfast
 7:30 - 8:00 - equipment inspection
 8:00 - 8:50 - this hour is taken up with various disciplinary and routine programs. This would continue until 12:50; then they sound retreat, or repose. During this period they have drills near the barracks.
 12:50 - 1300 - stacking weapons and preparing for lunch
 1300 - 1330 - lunch
 1330 - 1500 - rest
 1500 - 1800 - theoretical or practical training programs, in the barracks or the yard.
 1800 - 1900 - cleaning and oiling of weapons, etc
 1900 - 1930 - supper
 1930 - 2130 - the entire evening is devoted to a regular "cultural hour" (the men were occupied exclusively with questions on farm workers' cooperatives, enemies of the people, kulaks, etc) These sessions are conducted by persons especially designated by the authorities on the orders of the Regimental Political Commander
 2130 - 2155 - check
 2155 - bedtime

21. Arms in the Regiment:

In the infantry rifle platoons the men are armed with carbines or rifles, Soviet type, 7.62 mm. Each infantry rifle platoon has three light machine guns each, Soviet make, Dakhtirol, 7.62 mm. Squad commanders in the regiments are armed with submachine guns. Each infantry rifle company has nine light machine guns. There are 18 light machine guns to an infantry rifle battalion. Each heavy machine gun platoon has three heavy machine guns, Soviet make, Maksim-Sokolov, 7.62 mm. Heavy machine gun companies each have three light mortars and three ZIS guns, Soviet manufacture. In the artillery battalions all the men have carbines or rifles of Soviet make. Each platoon has two 120 mm Soviet ZIS guns.

22. There is no information on the telephone equipment. The entire regiment is provided with seven or eight horse carts and two OPEL automobiles, one of which has never been in working order.

23. Food in the Regiment:

Upon enlistment the recruits were almost always fed dried cabbage, dried onions, sauerkraut, and pork, of which they got 150 grams per person per week, and this amount was prepared in two ways. For breakfast they got tea and jam - 60 grams,

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amount was prepared in two ways.

23. ewe cheese - 40 grams; and ordinary cheese - 30 grams. This was the stipulated rations, but the men only got half of it. In spring and throughout the summer they got beans, tomatoes, and string beans. or they got beans, tomatoes, and string beans.
23. Clothing:
- Upon enlistment the recruits in the barracks were given two pairs of undershirts and pants, a handkerchief, two pairs of socks, four sheets, and a blanket. During their period of service they are given spools for darning once or twice instead of pay. Their winter clothing consisted of pants, jacket, overcoat, and caps. Summer clothing is summer pants or shorts, summer jacket, and caps.
24. Nothing is known about officers' pay.
25. The Fifth Danube Regiment, the Fifth Artillery Regiment, and the headquarters of the Fifth Danube Division, as well as the division quartermaster, are located in Ruse.
26. The 19th Infantry Regiment, which is attached to the Fifth Danube Division, is located in Razgrad. A battalion of border guards was also there, composed of six companies of 115-120 men each. Of these, four companies were generally border guards, and the other two were specialized companies, presumable trainers of watchdogs for the border.
27. In Silistra: the 31st Infantry Regiment, the 8th Cavalry Regiment (which may be reorganized by now), and a battalion of border guards, as in Razgrad.
28. Sofia: All First Regiments are located in Sofia, but it is not known exactly where.
29. Burgas: the 24th Infantry Regiment, a coastal defense regiment, a signal battalion attached to the 10th Division, which has now been formed, with headquarters in Burgas.
30. Zvezdets, Malko Turnovo Okoliya: the 28th Infantry Regiment.
31. Sredets: an independent battalion, which was located in barracks built in 1950.
32. Elkhovo: Third Engineers Battalion and 11th Infantry Regiment.
33. Tolbukhin: 46th Infantry Regiment.
34. No Soviet units were seen in Bulgaria, but Soviet officers frequently went to check the barracks and to attend battalion and regimental drills. They were attached to the division and army staffs.
35. All soldiers of the reconnaissance platoon of the special Battalion in the regiment are armed with Schmeisser submachine guns. All the men had a camouflage outfit. The men of this platoon are especially trained for combat reconnaissance.

Note: When soldiers and officers are designated as "Partisans" in this report, it is believed that this refers to "former Partisans."

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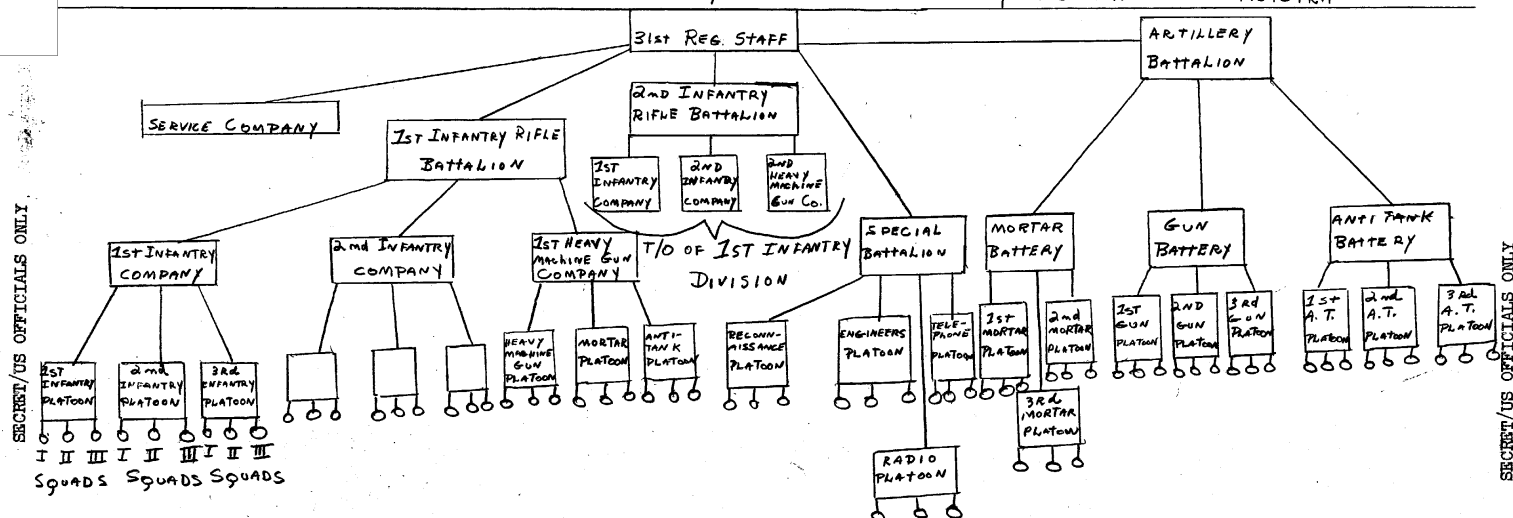
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ENCLOSURE (A): The T/O of 31st Infantry Regiment in Silistra.

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COMPLEMENT AND T/O OF 31ST INFANTRY REGIMENT IN SILISTRA



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ENCLOSURE (A)